

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 7, 12, 18, 23, 31 and 33 have been amended. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 1-3, 5-26 and 28-39 are pending and under consideration.

The §112 rejection is now discussed. The Examiner's first point was that the language at issue should be modified to include "a plurality of grooves" having reflective slopes. Applicant respectfully disagrees. For example, claim 1 recites a first surface comprising a plurality of respective slopes. The location of the slopes is clearly defined, specifically, that they are on the first surface. The location of the slopes relative to the other elements can be understood without specifying that they are part of grooves. Thus, the claim is sufficiently definite.

The Examiner's second point regards the "varying angle." It is respectfully submitted that the present amendments address this point.

The §102 and 103 rejections are now discussed. Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim has been amended to include features of claim 4. Specifically, claim 1 now more clearly recites the angle formed by the reflective slopes with respect to the lengthwise direction gradually becomes larger when moving further from a side of the guide onto which the light is incident.

Claim 4 was rejected under Tsutsumi and Suzuki. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's combination is not proper. Tsutsumi teaches a plurality of reflecting portions 28 arranged to output uniform light from the light guide member 27. The Examiner relies upon Suzuki as teaching various angles formed by the reflective slopes with respect to the lengthwise direction. However, if the various angles were applied to the reflecting portions 28 of Tsutsumi, then the uniform light would not be achieved. Thus, there would have been no motivation to make the Examiner's combination.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/629,851

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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